

# X-MEN

ISSUE 205



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## MESSIAH COMPLEX

chapter five

CAREY

MARVEL

BACHALO

# MESSIAH COMPLEX

CHAPTER FIVE

# X-MEN



CAREY  
BACHALO

MARVEL  
VARIANT  
EDITION

205

RATED T+



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DIRECT  
MOTION

After M-Day, mutantkind neared extinction. Once hailed as humanity's replacement, it appeared mutants, now reduced to a few hundred, would fade into oblivion. But a new mutant baby has arrived, the first since M-Day, and with it, hope for mutantkind.

## Previously in MESSIAH COMPLEX...

On the day of its birth, the new mutant baby was kidnapped. Cyclops, the leader of the X-Men, dispatched a team to the Antarctic to ambush Mr. Sinister, one of the prime suspects, and his henchmen, the Marauders. At the same time, Cyclops charged Rictor to infiltrate the Purifiers, an organization of mutant-hating zealots also suspected in the disappearance. Unbeknownst to Cyclops, the frustrated New X-Men, young students of the Xavier Institute, attacked the Purifiers at the same time.

Rictor learned the Purifiers did not have the baby, but the good news ended there. Moments later the Reavers, genetically modified mercenaries led by Lady Deathstrike, attacked the New X-Men and gravely wounded Hellion. Meanwhile Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man, lies in a coma after sending two of his duplicates into separate futures in search of clues to the mutant baby's history. Layla Miller stowed away on the trip, with no hope of return.

## CHAPTER FIVE:

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*Chris Bachalo: Penciler*

*Tim Townsend: Inker*

*Brian Reber: Colorist*

*Cory Petit: Letterer*

*Will Panzica: Assistant Editor*

*Nick Lowe: Editor*

*Axel Alonso: Executive Editor*

*Joe Quesada: Editor in Chief*

*Dan Buckley: Publisher*

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**NEW YORK.  
EIGHTY YEARS FROM NOW.**



MAN.

NICE PLACE.

IT'S A MUTANT  
INTERNMENT  
CAMP, JAMIE. IT'S  
NOT MEANT TO  
BE NICE.

**JAMIE MADROX  
AND LAYLA MILLER**

SARDONIC WISECRACKING  
IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY IS  
A HERO THING. I THOUGHT  
YOU KNEW STUFF.

ONLY  
STUFF THAT ISN'T  
RIDICULOUS.

EASY. WALK  
UP TO THE GATE  
AND TELL THEM  
YOU'RE A  
MUTANT.

I NEED TO  
GET IN THERE  
SOMEHOW.

THANKS, LAYLA.  
I WAS LOOKING FOR A  
WAY THAT WOULD LEAVE  
ME THE OPTION OF  
GETTING OUT AGAIN  
AFTERWARDS.

WE KNOW IT  
WAS A MUTANT THAT  
STARTED THIS RACE-  
WAR, BUT WE NEED A  
NAME, DETAILS.

AND THE RECORDS  
IN THAT LIBRARY HAD  
BEEN FILLETED.  
SOMEONE HAD EDITED  
OUT EVERYTHING WE  
NEEDED—ALMOST AS  
THOUGH THEY KNEW  
WE WERE COMING.

COMFORTING  
THOUGHT.

NOT SO MUCH.  
I WONDER HOW  
THE OTHERS  
ARE DOING.

WELL,  
WIN OR  
LOSE--

"--IT'S  
ALL ANCIENT  
HISTORY NOW."

XANTARCTICA.  
NOW.

X-MEN, YOUR  
DESTRUCTION HAD  
FALLEN QUITE LOW  
ON MY LIST OF  
PRIORITY.

BY COMING  
HERE, YOU RUN THE  
RISK OF MAKING ME  
RECONSIDER.

YOU DO NOT  
INTIMIDATE US.  
SINISTER, AND YOU  
WON'T DETER US.

NO? LOOK  
AROUND YOU, STORM.  
YOU FACE AN ARMY--  
MANY OF WHOM COULD  
KILL YOUR ENTIRE TEAM  
SINGLE-HANDED.

HOW DO  
THE FIVE OF  
YOU EXPECT TO  
PREVAIL?

WHY DON'T  
YOU READ OUR  
MINDS, AND SEE  
FOR YOURSELF?

...



THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING.  
WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK



KEEP YOUR MIND ON THE JOB, SLAYTON.

THE JOB SUCKS, LEX.  
"LOOK, BUT DON'T TOUCH"! JEEZ!

AND EVERY TIME I TRY TO SPY ON THE GIRLS' DORMS, THE BLONDE LADY GIVES ME A STRESS HEADACHE AND A NOSEBLEED.



I JUST THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE WAITED, SCOTT. TO ATTACK THE MARAUDERS HEAD-ON, YOU NEEDED ALL OF US.

SINISTER AND THE PURIFIERS FOUGHT A PRIVATE WAR TO GET THIS BABY, BISHOP. WE HAVE TO KNOW WHY.

WAITING WAS A LUXURY WE DIDN'T HAVE. IF YOU WANTED TO BE IN THE TEAM, YOU SHOULD HAVE GOT HERE SOONER.



I TOLD YOU. I WAS MAKING SOME INVESTIGATIONS OF MY OWN, SHAKING DOWN SOME CONTACTS IN WHAT USED TO BE THE MUTANT UNDERWORLD.

I PRESUME EMMA IS DOING SOMETHING SIMILAR RIGHT NOW.

NO. EMMA IS WITH THE ASSAULT TEAM.



SHE'S BEEN PSYCHICALLY LINKED TO ALL FIVE OF THEM FROM THE MOMENT THEY FOUND THE MARAUDER BASE.

YOU KNOW HOW SINISTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO SHIELD HIS PEOPLE AGAINST TELEPATHIC ATTACK?

"WELL, IN MY BOOK  
A GOOD IDEA IS  
WORTH STEALING."

SCRAMBLER  
AT TEN O'CLOCK,  
'RORO!

THANK YOU,  
LOGAN. HE AND  
VERTIGO REPRESENT  
THE MAIN TACTICAL  
DANGERS HERE.



HAMMER  
TAKES OUT  
ANVIL.

LKKKK!



WHICH LEAVES KURT  
FREE TO DEAL WITH THE  
STRATEGIC THREAT.

BAMF

GUTEN  
TAG, HERR  
EXODUS.

DO YOU KNOW  
THE SOR RONDANE  
MOUNTAINS? THEY'RE  
WELL WORTH--



















THIS  
FARCE IS OVER,  
X-MEN.  
IT ONLY  
REMAINS TO  
BRING DOWN THE  
CURTAIN--





I'LL  
COVER OUR  
RETREAT.  
WHATEVER  
THAT TAKES.

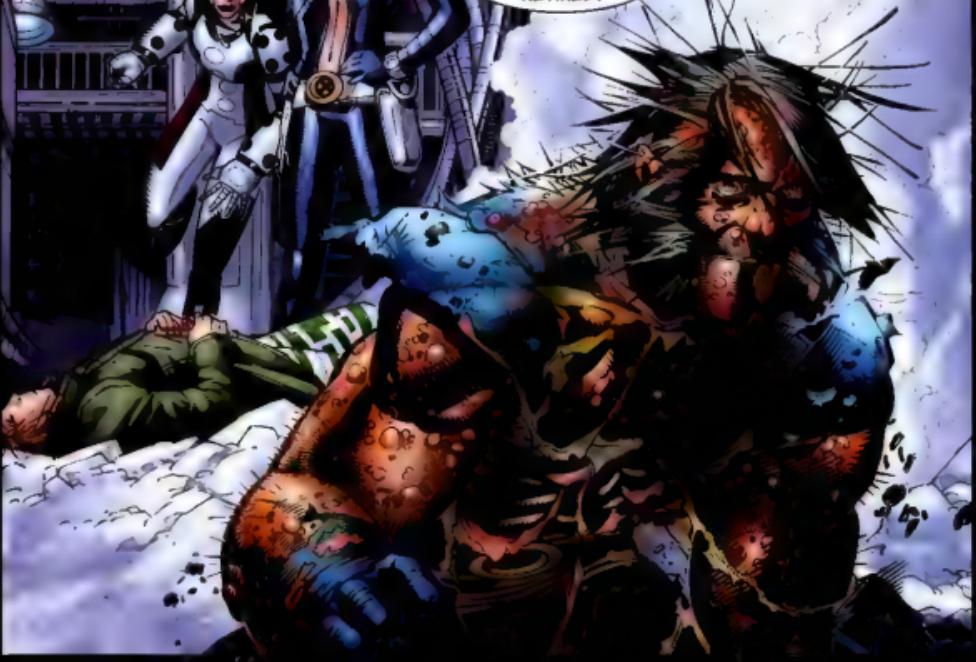
BAMF



HIS NAME'S SCRAMBLER,  
PARLIN'. AND I THINK YOU  
KNOW THAT HIS POWER  
HAS TURNED YOURS  
OFF.

AND THIS LITTLE  
BAIT-AND-SWITCH  
ILLUSION WAS  
BROUGHT TO YOU  
COURTESY OF--

REGAN  
WYNGARDE, X-MAN.  
RETIRER.



TCHIK

SO HOW'D  
YOU WANNA GO OUT?  
SLOW AND AGONIZING,  
BY ADAMANTUM  
POISONING?

OR SPLATTERED  
OVER THE LANDSCAPE  
IN A SINGLE GLORIOUS--



FWAH





"--GETTING AWAY  
DOESN'T MAKE ALL  
THAT MUCH OF A  
DIFFERENCE."

BAMF

GAAAAAH!

L-LOGAN!  
I  
C-CAN'T--

EMMA--  
COME IN!  
COME IN  
IF--YOU CAN  
HEAR ME.

I'M HEARING  
YOU, LOGAN. WHERE  
ARE YOU, AND HOW  
DID YOU DO?

DID YOU  
RETRIEVE THE  
BABY?

NEGATIVE. THE  
MARAUDERS DON'T  
HAVE THE BABY. ONE  
OF OUR SIDE HAS  
HER.

AN X-MAN  
TOOK HER FROM  
COOPERSTOWN.



THAT MAKES  
NO SENSE!

IT'S WHAT  
GAMBIT TOLD  
LOGAN, AND LOGAN  
BELIEVES IT.

WOULD HE? ONLY IF HE  
SHARED OUR AGENDA,  
SCOTT. AND IF HE DID,  
WOULDN'T HE HAVE BEEN  
IN TOUCH ALREADY?

TO TELL  
US HE WAS  
STILL  
ALIVE?

BUT HE  
WOULD HAVE  
CONTACTED  
US!

TELL  
STORM TO  
PULL OUT.  
NOW!

I  
CAN'T REACH  
STORM.

BUT  
WOLVERINE  
SAYS HE AND  
NIGHTCRAWLER  
ARE--



NEW  
PROGRAMMING--  
ACCEPTED.

INCAPACITATE--

--IMMOBILIZE--

--NEUTRALIZE--

--DESTROY  
THE X-MEN.







ONE  
MINUTE BEFORE  
DAWN, KID.

WE'RE  
DOING  
FINE.

X TO BE CONTINUED IN  
UNCANNY X-MEN #453

# X-MEN: MESSIAH COMPLEX

## CHAPTER 6 - UNCANNY X-MEN #493

UNCANNY X-MEN  
ISSUE 493

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MESSIAH COMPLEX  
chapter six  
BRUBAKER MARVEL TAN

Next week-

Cable on the run.

A battle at the mansion.

And Cyclops unleashes his secret weapon.



VARIANT COVER

# LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

EISNER AWARD-WINNING WRITER JEPH LOEB

**MARVEL:** You're working in two different universes (Marvel U and Ultimate U) on two vastly different properties, the common thread being that they are both coming off best-selling runs. Does the knowledge that both the Hulk and the Ultimates are red-hot and wildly popular right now intimidate you or do you relish the challenge?

**JEPH LOEB:** I don't do either actually! (laughs). I say this a lot so I'm sure anybody who has read one of my interviews is now rolling their eyes, but I just try and tell the best stories I can and hope folks like them. Some do. Some don't. I know who THOSE people are! But I'm incredibly lucky to work with talented folks like Joe Mad and Chris Lichtner, and me and McGuinness go back to when comics were a dime, so it's fun.

**MARVEL:** You're known for presenting your own unique take on books and characters. How will this hold true to both your take on the Hulk and on the Ultimates?

**JEPH LOEB:** I'm not sure what my unique take is... Is that good? I hope so! I think what I try to do is get to the core of what made the characters so iconic. With the Hulk, the idea of the rage is within all of us and in Banner's case it got out. It's very timely, very relatable. For the Ultimates, the trick is to tell an Avengers story that's not an Avengers story. When Mark Millar and Bryan Hitch created the Ultimates they had the good fortune that Avengers was the hottest book in the market. So they could LEAD, now follow. Now, Brian Bendis has made my life miserable, so I have to make him miserable by doing stuff that can't or won't be done in the mainstream book. Let's see what happens!

**MARVEL:** Which do you like writing for more: single-character or team books?

**JEPH LOEB:** It depends on who is drawing them. I would've killed to get Joe Mad and Chris Lichtner out of retirement, so Marvel made that happen. It's been amazing. On the other hand, when I see Ed's Hulk – it's so grand that it makes me smile. So it's all good.

**MARVEL:** In the Ultimate U, you are building to a rather huge event in the upcoming Ultimatum storyline. Where does Ultimates 3 fall in this timeline?

**JEPH LOEB:** Just before it. And while you will understand Ultimatum without reading Ultimates 3, the setup for that story – who makes the Ultimatum and WHY – happens in Ultimates 3. I'm kinda happy how that all turned out!

**MARVEL:** Similarly, in Hulk, are you setting up a larger storyline or will Hulk be all the talking and smashing for himself?

**JEPH LOEB:** Ah, clever. No tell you!

**MARVEL:** Your ability to write for your artist is well-chronicled. What are Joe Mad and Chris Lichtner's strengths that you steer towards? Same as with Ed McGuinness?

**JEPH LOEB:** Joe and Chris have the ability to draw anything in great detail – and in particular, things like faces and hands do a lot of the storytelling. In the first issue, setting those characters up was very important and I like how Joe and Chris tackle them. McGuinness approaches a page very much like – dare I say it – Kirby would. The camera is usually pushed IN, the action is very IN YOUR FACE. So with the Hulk, it really drives the story.

**MARVEL:** Your first published work back at Marvel was a run on Wolverine; any plans on returning to the X-Men world?

**JEPH LOEB:** Hope so! And fortunately, there's some of that going on in the Ultimate U, so I get a lot of juice off that!



'Nuff Said!

# QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWERS!

## WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR COMIC BOOKS?

"Some get bagged and boarded, all the rest get donated to either a kids-oriented charity or the USO."

- MARC GUGGENHEIM - Writer

(*Amazing Spider-Man*, *Marvel Comics Presents*)

"I stockpile them and give them out on Halloween, reasoning that it's better to rot a kid's mind than his teeth."

- PETER DAVID - Writer

(*X-Factor*, *She-Hulk*)

"I box them in no particular order into long boxes and file them away... never to be seen or heard from again. I currently have about 40 long boxes in my basement. I dream of one day organizing them... but y'know... I'm sure that'll never happen.

- ROBERT KIRKMAN - Writer

(*Marvel Zombies II*, *Ultimate X-Men*)

"I stack them next to my bed until I've read them. Then I stack them in my wardrobe, against the day when I'll put them in long boxes in some kind of order. It's never going to happen."

- MIKE CAREY - Writer

(*X-Men*, *Ultimate Fantastic Four*)

"Read them, then drop them in long boxes, as is, no bags or boards and in no particular order. I keep telling myself I'll organize them some day."

- C.B. CEJULSKI - Writer

(*Loners*, *Fairy Tales*)

"No begging, keep some, give some to local kids of all ages! Oh, and I use long boxes to prop up parts of my office!"

- JOHN ROMITA Jr. - Artist

(*World War Hulk*, *Amazing Spider-Man*)

"I occasionally read them but mostly they sit in boxes until somebody comes along and says 'Oh look, comics, can I have them?' It's not that I don't like them but that I never seem to have the time to read them. My kids are more into games than comics and if I took them home my wife would hate them cluttering up the house. Simple answer: I stockpile and other people read them."

- BRYAN HITCH - Artist

(*Ultimates*, *Fantastic Four*)

"When I get extras, I give them to my cheapskate friends. If I get 1 or 2, I keep 'em for myself."

- LEINIL YU - Artist

(*New Avengers*)

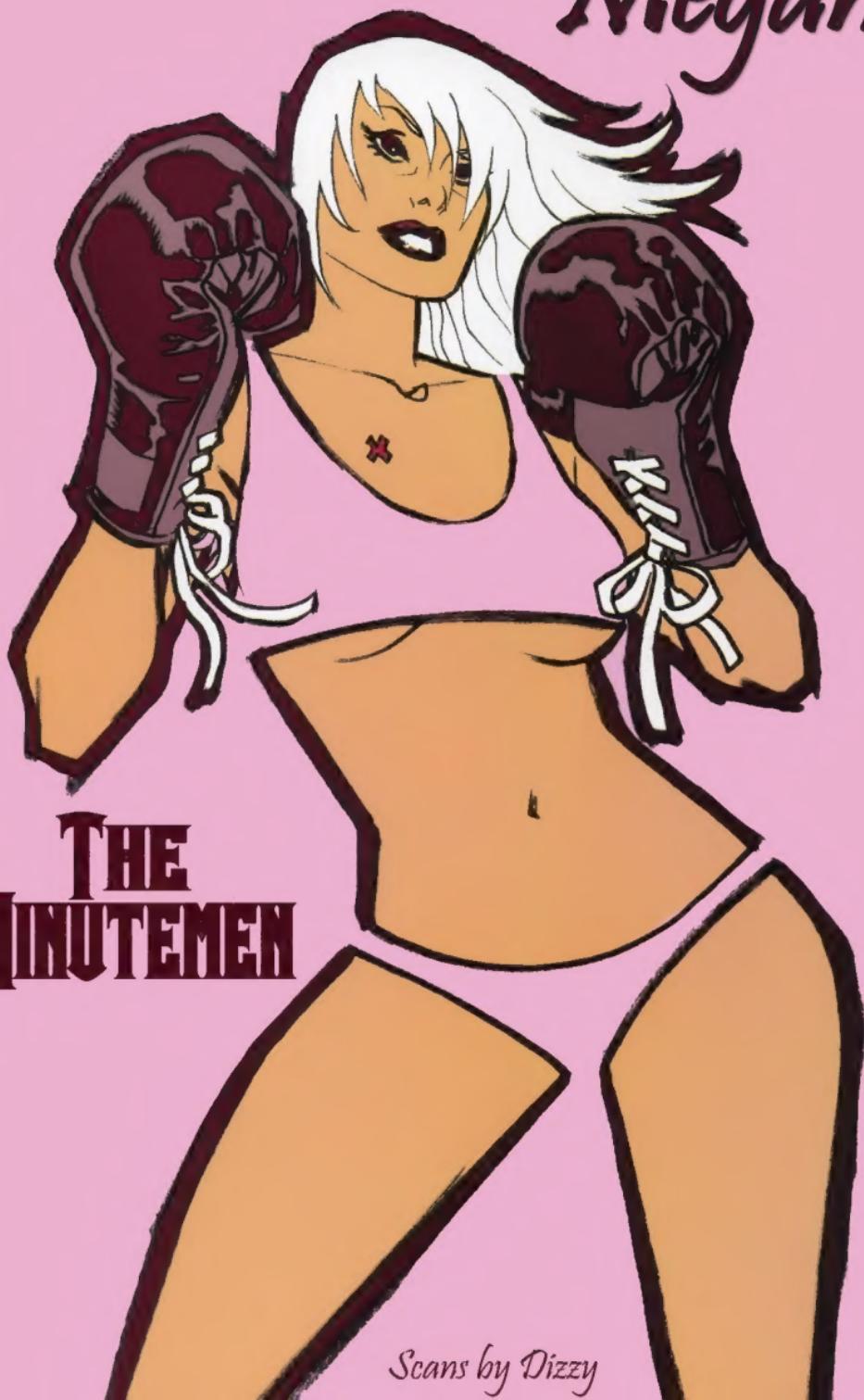
"I give them away to anyone who wants to read them and the ones that I read while outside of my home or office, I pay forward. In other words I leave them in assorted places. Whether it be airport terminals, the train, doctors' offices, anywhere I finish a comic is where I leave it; you never know who may pick it up next."

- JOE QUESADA - Marvel Editor-in-Chief, Artist

(*Amazing Spider-Man*)

NOW YOU KNOW!

Megan



THE  
MINUTEMEN

Scans by Dizzy